

monitoring the states in which at least the cells within said chunk are individually programmed, and

terminating application of programming parameters to individual ones of at least the cells within said chunk when they are monitored to have reached said one of the more than two programmable states while continuing to apply said programming parameters to others of the cells within said chunk until all of the cells within said chunk are determined to have reached the [reset] said one of the more than two programmable states.

Please add the following new claims:

~~37-100~~ 37-100. A method of operating an EEPROM system having memory cells that individually include an electrically floating gate carrying a charge level that is alterable in response to appropriate voltage conditions being applied to the cell in order to set a variable threshold thereof to a desired level that is determinable by reading the cell, said method comprising:

applying said appropriate voltage conditions in parallel to a plurality of said memory cells, thereby to alter the charge levels on the floating gates of said plurality of memory cells to drive their threshold levels to desired levels,

individually monitoring the threshold levels of said plurality of memory cells to set a binary element associated with each such cell, when reaching its desired threshold level, in order to prevent further application of appropriate voltage conditions to said plurality of memory cells from altering the charge level of the associated memory cell, and

continuing the voltage applying and monitoring steps until all of said plurality of cells have reached their desired levels without allowing any individual binary element to be reset as a result of any monitoring its associated memory cell after the binary element is set.

~~37-101~~ 37-101. The method of claim ~~100~~ 37-100, wherein there are exactly two threshold levels.

~~37-102~~ 37-102. The method of claim ~~100~~ 37-100, wherein there are more than two threshold levels.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 50, strike the last sentence of the Abstract, lines 13-17, and substitute therefor the following: --

Yet another improvement individually verifies the states of a plurality of cells that are being programmed in parallel in order to terminate the programming, as a result of the verification, on a cell-by-cell basis as the cells reach their programmed states.--

**REMARKS**

With regard to the objections given in the Office Action to the claims, disclosure, abstract and drawings, the following responses are provided, in the same order as given in the Office Action: